UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1984/NGO/6
5 July 1984

Original: ENGLISH

Second regular session of 1984
Agenda item 3

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY, INCLUDING REGIONAL AND SECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS

International economic co-operation for development

Statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

received 29 June 1984

GE.84-63335

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) recognizes with great concern the persisting world economic crisis as well as the serious deterioration of international economic relations. The disastrous political and social consequences are likely to result if they cannot be arrested and reversed soon.

WFUNA notes with preoccupation that in recent years no substantial progress has been achieved in international negotiations either within or outside the United Nations on the issues of development and international economic co-operation, and regrets the introduction of an increasing number of trade restrictions including unilateral measures of discriminatory nature.

WFUNA considers the aforementioned dangerous trends as a deviation from basic principles of international trade relations and the fundamentals of international economic relations as laid down inter alia, in the Charter on Economic Rights and Duties of States, and wishes to emphasize that economic co-operation will remain essential for international development and that any new international economic order must be based on what is beneficial to the world economy, not simply to one portion of it. WFUNA therefore recognizes the urgent need to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in promoting development and international economic co-operation and overcoming existing difficulties and problems in this area.

In the context of the above,

WFUNA urges the governments of the Member States of the United Nations to undertake concerted measures to normalize international economic relations and assist developing countries in their development efforts. In the view of WFUNA such measures at the intergovernmental level should be primarily aimed at:

(a) securing appropriate political conditions for development and international economic co-operation through relaxation of tensions and progress to disarmament which would release urgently needed substantial resources for development and should contribute to overcoming the current economic crisis;

(b) making all efforts to achieve real progress in international negotiations on development and international economic co-operation with a view to establishing a New International Economic Order and to this effect to start as early as possible the first round of global negotiations;

(c) restoring confidence in international economic co-operation, in particular, in relations between countries with different levels of development and among countries having different economic systems, particularly by:

(i) observing basic principles, rules and norms of international trade, especially the principles of the most favoured nation and non-discrimination;

(ii) refraining from applying trade restrictions, blockades, embargoes and other economic measures incompatible with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and undertaking to eliminate all such measures presently in force without delay;

(iii) adopting within the Economic and Social Council, to this effect, a set of preventive and promotional measures aimed at the strengthening of confidence among nations, and promoting their economic relations irrespective of adverse impact of political tensions, inter alia, through consultations on future policies which may influence their respective economies;

(d) promoting autonomous development and economic co-operation among developing countries as an integral part of a global development effort and favouring a self-reliant development;

(e) continuing assistance to developing countries by developed market-economy countries, socialist countries and member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries;

(f) further strengthening the role of the United Nations Development Programme in taking over-all responsibility for administering, directing and financing programmes in the field of technical assistance at all levels, especially at the local one, and in overcoming its current budget crisis;

(g) asking developed market economy countries and other World Bank member States in the position to do so, to contribute more generously to the World Bank Group, in particular to the International Development Association;

(h) giving more favourable consideration to the proposal of the developing countries to convene an international conference on monetary and financial affairs with a view to reconsidering the structure and functioning of the international monetary system;

(i) making efforts to reach, in compliance with the International Development Strategy adopted by the United Nations General Assembly for the Third International Development Decade, the target of providing 0.7 per cent of GNP of developed countries to developing countries as Official Development Assistance;

(j) fighting protectionism and securing access for the goods from developing countries to the markets of all developed countries in parallel with stabilizing commodities' exports earnings of developing countries;

(k) making every effort to overcome the causes and consequences of the present world social crisis, in particular, the critical social situation of the developing countries.

WFUNA would like to draw the attention of the Members of the Council to the fact that the above policy statement was unanimously adopted by the United Nations Associations established in all parts of the world, in countries of various political, economic and social systems, and at different stages of development.